(b) if, so the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that several cases relating to policy decisions seeking the views of his Ministry from the Ministries of Finance, Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation are pending for several months; and

(d) if so, the number of such cases from these Ministries pending as on date and what steps are being taken to clear these cases promptly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K.VENKATAPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No file relating to Ministry of Finance, Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation is pending in this Ministry (Legislative Department and Department of Legal Affairs) as on 10.11.2005.

(d) Does not arise.

Appointment of Judges

†551. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards non-appointment to the sanctioned posts of Judges in the High Court of Jharkhand;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that the number of pending cases is continuously increasing due to shortage of Judges; and

(c) if so, the action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgement of October 6, 1993 read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998, the process of initiation of proposal for appointment of Judges of a High Court lies with

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the Cheif Justice of that High Court. The Government has, however, been requesting the Chief Justices of the High Courts, Chief Ministers and the Governors of the States, from time to time, to initiate proposals for filling up of the present and anticipated vacanices during the next six months. In response, the Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court has sent proposal for appointment of 5 Judges which is being processed.

Mining projects on forest land

552. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals cleared for mining projects on forest land so far by Government from 1998-2005, year-wise;

(b) the hectares of land involved;

(c) the number of affected people due to these projects, year-wise and State-wise;

(d) the names of the companies involved indicating how many are foreign companies; and

(e) whether these clearances have been given after consulting the different tribals representative institutions as mandated by the judgement of the Supreme Court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b): The details are given below:—

Year	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 (upto 24.11.05)
No. of cases	108	117	141	98	109	53	118	137
Area diverted (in hectares)	7313.45	14512.00	5702.41	7699.10	1996.99	5878.34	7650.61	9722.77

(c) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House. However, under Section 5(1) of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957, only an Indian national or a